

ABSTRACT:

An enterprise wide electronic commerce system allows trading partners to act as participants in a complex trading process. Participants communicate with one another by joining conversations that are hosted in a collaboration space and managed by a collaboration hub. In this manner, the enterprise workflow may have an effect on, or be affected by, local workflows.

The invention provides a conversation management system for enterprise wide electronic collaboration. An embodiment of the invention includes a conversation manager for managing the flow of messages in a collaboration system, comprising a conversation initiation mechanism for initiating a conversation a participation registration mechanism for registering participants in a conversation, and a conversation repository for storing conversation management data.